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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A balloon dilatation catheter having a relatively stiff proximal catheter shaft which is formed at least in part of an engineering thermoplastic polymer material with a tensile strength of at least about 10,000 psi, an elongation of at least 50% and a tensile modulus of at least 5 300,000 psi. The polymer is preferably an aromatic polymer, and particularly polyetheretherketone.

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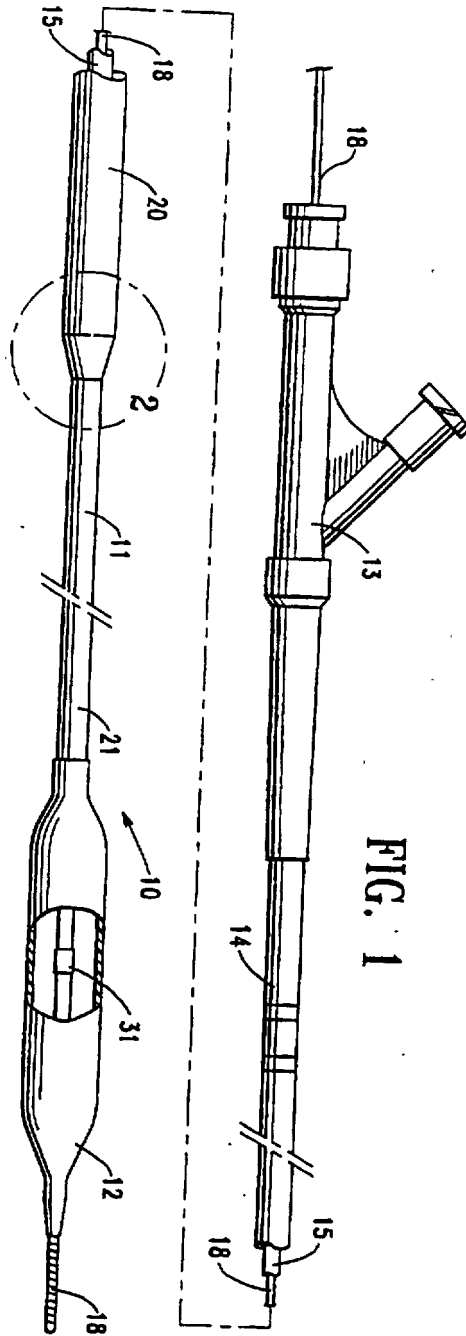


FIG. 1

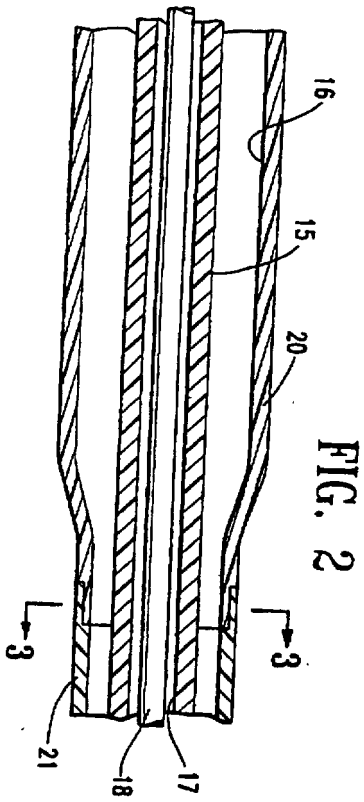


FIG. 2

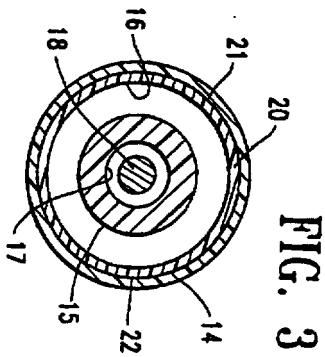


FIG. 3

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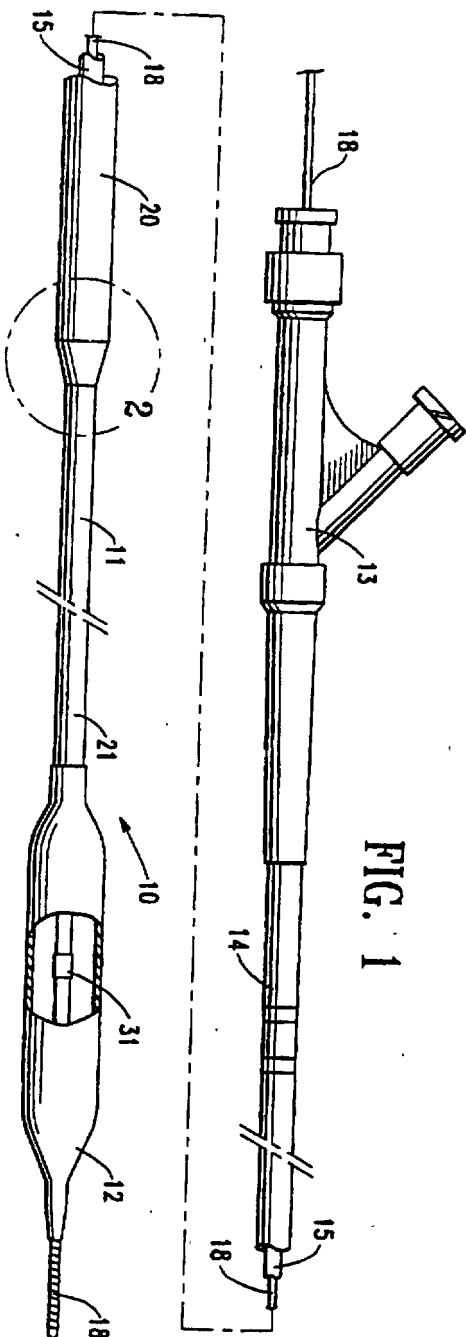


FIG. 1

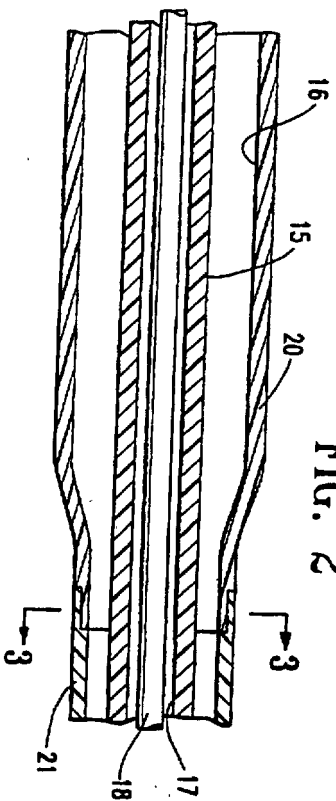


FIG. 2

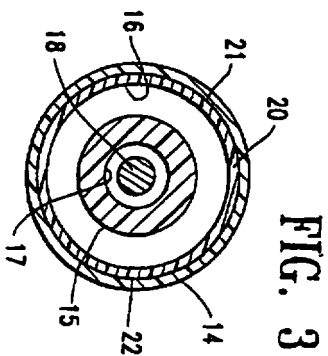


FIG. 3

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